

Product

recognition



CLASSI SEAL, BY CLASSIC MARBLE

Classic Marble won the Housing Product of the Year award for its flexible waterproof stand, Classi Seal, which ensures that no leakage occurs along the wall sides of an installation. Leakage can cost the industry dearly, and it is not necessarily the obvious leaks that cause damage — a drip or run here and there caused by movement, shrinkage and settlement can cause just as much inconvenience as a flood-type leak in the form of dry rot, which then has to be followed by the inconvenience of repairs. Classi Seal promises to overcome the nightmare by preventing leakage even if just 15mm of movement occurs. When any movement does take place, the product will not put pressure on tiles.

To add to its genius, Classi Seal takes minutes to apply to the top perimeter of a bath or shower tray — the paper is peeled off the roll and applied to the sides that make contact with the wall, bonding immediately so the next stage of installation is not delayed. No other tools or fixing are required and skilled personnel need not apply. The product can be affixed in less than perfect conditions such as on an uneven wall, and it can tackle tricky corners.

Classic Marble can place its Housebuilding Innovation Award alongside the two that its innovative product scooped at Plan Expo, Dublin in 2006 for best interior product and best innovation. Housebuilder's own judging panel dubbed Classi Seal "groundbreaking" and "so simple," and applauded the stand's ability to conquer the gripe of leakage so admirably.

If Classi Seal is treated with respect and correctly fitted, Classic Marble claims, it is guaranteed for ten years, proving that innovation has a long shelf life.



THE COMPLETE SOLAR ROOF BY SOLARCENTURY

Solarcentury's CompleteSolarRoof is a fully integrated solar roofing system which provides solar electricity as well as solar hot water. It can supply most of a household's hot water needs and over half of its electricity requirements, by employing C21e solar photovoltaic tiles and C21t solar thermal tiles. The system was seen as an "excellent entry" in the Innovation Awards.

The photovoltaic tiles generate electricity from sunlight, whilst solar thermal tiles use the heat of the sun to warm water for bathing and washing. C21e tiles use, according to Solarcentury, the most efficient cells currently available, requiring 8m2 per kWp to generate 830kWh of silent, renewable energy per year. The C21t solar thermal tile is the UK's only flat thermal tile presently available in the UK.

The technologically advanced tiles look similar to traditional roofing materials, and only four conventional roof tiles need to be removed to install them. The tiles can be fitted to any conventional roof batten and any conventional roofing contractor can fit them — housebuilders are therefore able to embrace renewable energy without much alteration of their house designs. There is also no energy wastage as any excess is transferred back to the national grid.

Installation is simple, Solarcentury says — tiles are attached to the roof by standard fixing screws. No electricity work takes place on the roof as cabling is passed through the roof cavity once the roofing contractor has completed their work, and an electrician will finish the installation. The plumber will not need to balance on the roof as all plumbing work is performed internally which also drives down installation costs, a cheering thought for all housebuilders.